

ORIGINAL

DK 99-25

**From:** Bryan Shawn Huckaby <bshaw@oneimage.com>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Sat, Jul 24, 1999 12:03 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Bryan Shawn Huckaby (bshaw@oneimage.com)  
on Saturday, July 24, 1999 at 11:03:03

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JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: I believe the creation of limited range, low-power FM stations will allow for the creation of much more community oriented media. This is in keeping with the original stated goals of the FCC. Democratization of the access to mass media is a very positive step.

address: 4433 Prairie Trail Dr.

city: Loveland

state: CO

zip: 80537

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
455 Twelfth Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore  
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition  
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25  
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

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One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio

Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.
6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.
7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.
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9. Stations should be locally programmed. However recorded materials such as music, poetry, documentaries, features etc. may be used. Sharing of program materials and resources among micro and community stations is strongly encouraged. No more than 20% of air time from off-site feeds or syndicated tapes.

10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.

11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.

12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair:  
Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:  
Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia  
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia  
Peter Franck, San Francisco  
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
Alan Korn, San Francisco  
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University  
Nancy Kranich--Librarian  
Ron Daniels--Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights  
George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement  
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania  
Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting  
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego  
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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert  
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

**From:** erik waterman <waterman@macroscopic.com>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Thu, Jul 22, 1999 6:34 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by erik waterman (waterman@macroscopic.com)  
on Thursday, July 22, 1999 at 17:34:27

comments: I support low power microradio for non-profit organizations!

Please support the Microradio Empowerment Coalition and endorse their 10 requests for microradio.

address: 372 shotwell

address2: sf, ca 94110

city: sf, ca, 94110

state: ca

zip: 94110

Submit: Send to FCC

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Robert W. McChesney, Madison

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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia  
Peter Franck, San Francisco  
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
Alan Korn, San Francisco  
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University  
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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

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Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**From:** Terry Schwartz <terrersch@prodigy.net>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Thu, Jul 22, 1999 2:01 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Terry Schwartz (terrersch@prodigy.net)  
on Thursday, July 22, 1999 at 13:01:11

comments: We need to breathe real meaning into our freedom of expression and one way to do it is to ensure greater equality of access to the broadcast media!

address: 4041 Vincent Ave. S.

city: Minneapolis

state: MN

zip: 55410

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman  
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cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore  
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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

**From:** Samantha J. Ploetz <laurier\_rose@yahoo.com>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Thu, Jul 22, 1999 11:20 AM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Samantha J. Ploetz (laurier\_rose@yahoo.com)  
on Thursday, July 22, 1999 at 10:20:44

comments: Help keep the diversity and liberty of our communities alive!

address: 3724 13th ave s

city: Minneapolis

state: MN

zip: 55407

Submit: Send to FCC

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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert  
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

**From:** Kate Sellar <k\_sellar@cas.org>  
**To:** K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNES),K...  
**Date:** Thu, Jul 22, 1999 11:35 AM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
 Commissioner Michael Powell  
 Commissioner Susan Ness  
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554  
 cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton Vice President Al Gore,  
 Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.  
 cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=

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street=1629 Columbia Road  
city=Washington DC  
state=DC  
zip=20009  
=Send to FCC



ORIGINAL

**From:** John Yee <johnathan@bugsmagazine.com>  
**To:** K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...  
**Date:** Thu, Jul 22, 1999 1:36 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
Federal Communications Commission  
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cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton Vice President Al Gore,  
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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author  
John Yee-- Graphic Artist  
Additional Comments=  
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street=3115 ADAMS MILL RD NW  
city=WASHINGTON  
state=DC  
zip=20010  
=Send to FCC

DK 99-25

ORIGINAL

**From:** <wanderer@sfo.com>  
**To:** K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...  
**Date:** Thu, Jul 22, 1999 3:33 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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